

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CHULA VISTA SAFETY COMMISSION**

December 2, 2009  
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers  
City Hall - Building 100  
276 Fourth Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

**1. Roll Call:**

Present: Chair Liken; Commissioners Caudillo, Cochrane, Fuentes (arrived late), Gove, and Navarro

Absent: Commissioner Moriarty

Staff present: Frank Rivera, Principal Civil Engineer; Muna Cuthbert, Senior Civil Engineer; Police Officer Shon Thurman; and Florence Picardal, Recording Secretary

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Opening Statement**

Opening statement read by Chair Liken. Chair Liken introduced new Commissioner, Carol Gove.

**4. Approval of Minutes: August 5, 2009 and October 7, 2009**

Due to absences, there was no quorum to approve the minutes.

**5. Oral Communications**

None.

**MEETING AGENDA**

**6. Recognition of Service for Commissioner Mark Perrett**

A plaque and commemorative gavel were presented to retiring Commissioner Mark Perrett. Mr. Perrett served on the Commission from December 4, 2009 thru June 30, 2009. He was also asked to fill in for the meetings of August and October 2009 since the new Commissioners had not been sworn in yet.

**7. Resolution - Denying the Installation of an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of Saint Claire Drive and Saint Germain Road**

At the October 7, 2009 Safety Commission Meeting, under Oral Communications, staff received a request from Mr. Steve Limber to install an all-way stop at St. Claire Drive and St. Germain Road intersection. The resident of St. Claire Drive felt this intersection was unsafe for vehicles and an all-way stop would help reduce the speeding on St. Claire Drive and facilitate ingress and egress to his driveway. Sr. Civil Engineer Cuthbert gave a short presentation. Two phone calls and one e-mail were received in favor of staff's recommendation.

**Staff Recommendation:** Safety Commission adopt a resolution denying the installation of an all-way stop control at the intersection of St. Claire Drive and St. Germain Road. However, due to the prevailing speeds of vehicles at St. Claire Drive, staff recommends the installation of two warning signs ("Watch Downhill Speed" and "Intersection Warning" signs) on St. Claire Drive approaching the intersection at St. Germain Road. Also, for added visibility, the maintenance and trimming of existing plants close to the intersection will be requested and ordered.

**Public hearing opened.**

The following persons spoke in favor of staff's recommendation.

1. Paul Echeverria, Chula Vista resident
2. Veronica Gerace, Chula Vista resident

The following persons spoke against staff's recommendation:

1. Jo Anne Jenkins, Chula Vista resident
2. Steve Limber, Chula Vista resident
3. Michael Foster, Chula Vista resident

**Public hearing closed.**

**Commission Discussion:** Chair Liken pointed out the yellow highlights (on points received) did not show up on the copies that were originally delivered to the Commissioners. Copies with the yellow highlights were distributed at tonight's meeting. Staff made a note of this discrepancy and will ensure that future studies contain the highlighted material.

Commissioner Fuentes had questions on Warrant #2 (sight distance) from the two studies. He did not understand the discrepancy between the two percentages. Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioner Fuentes on the sight distance stats and the major concerns with the installation of an all-way stop. Mr. Rivera concluded an all-way stop may not solve all the problems at this location; the intersection doesn't meet the criteria for an all-way stop.

Commissioners Cochrane and Caudillo agreed with staff's recommendation to trim existing plants. Commissioner Cochrane did not believe an all-way stop would solve the problem. Commissioner Caudillo stated more traffic calming measures could be used.

Commissioner Navarro, Fuentes, and Caudillo were not convinced either way. Commissioner Fuentes thought the sight distance was an issue and wanted staff to look at the sight distance again.

Chair Liken stated he did not want this item to go back to staff. He went on to explain there is a Council policy in place. He stated that the current City Council has made it clear with previous items brought before them. In the past 2 years, the Safety Commission has brought items before Council that went against staff recommendation. City Council agreed with staff's recommendation and the requests were denied. Tonight, most speakers were not in favor of an all-way stop. There was lots of discussion of folks not paying attention to the stop signs already in place and the points were not there to warrant an all way stop. He would like to see the Commission agree with staff's recommendation to deny the all-way top; trim plants/shrubs, place signs and then after that is done, take a look at the items brought forward (e.g., sight distance) at this meeting and if the stats have significantly changed, then staff would be directed as part of the motion to come back with current numbers in another report to the Commission. He concluded that delaying this item would be a disservice to the public.

Commissioner Cochrane also requested more police enforcement and did not want to delay this item.

**MOTION** made by Chair Liken, seconded by Commissioner Gove to adopt resolution concurring with staff's recommendation to deny the installation of an all-way stop control at the intersection of St. Claire Drive and St. Germain Road and follow up with the recommendation in the report to trim/remove plants and install signs; after plant work is performed and signs installed, review sight distance and if there is substantial difference in results, come back to Commission with a report in six months; and additional police enforcement of the intersection.

**MOTION CARRIED** (6-0-1, Moriarty absent).

8. Resolution - Approving the Installation of an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of "F" Street and Del Mar Avenue

At the October 7, 2009, meeting, under Oral Communications, several requests from the public were made to install an all-way stop at the intersection of "F" Street and Del Mar Avenue. The citizens stated that the vehicle speeds along "F" Street made it unsafe to use the crosswalk at Del Mar Avenue. Staff conducted an all-way stop study of the intersection. Sr. Civil Engineer Cuthbert gave a short presentation.

**Staff Recommendation:** Safety Commission adopt a resolution concurring with staff's recommendation to install an all-way stop control at the intersection of "F" Street and Del Mar Avenue.

**Public hearing opened.**

The following person spoke against staff's recommendation.

1. Joan Stroh, Chula Vista resident

**Public hearing closed.**

**Commission Discussion:** Commissioner Gove stated she volunteers at the Norman Park Center and she has problems coming off of Del Mar onto "F" Street going westerly. There is a dental office at Del Mar/"F" and when the patients are parked along "F" Street it is very difficult to see oncoming traffic. She was in favor of this all-way stop.

Commissioner Fuentes agreed with Commissioner Gove and supported staff's recommendation. Commissioner Caudillo frequents this location as well and was in support of staff's recommendation. Chair Liken stated he was also in favor of staff's recommendation. He added this item has come before the Commission twice. He thought it was in the public's interest to install the all-way stop.

**MSC (Navarro/Cochrane)** to adopt resolution concurring with staff's recommendation to install an all-way stop control at the intersection of "F" Street and Del Mar Avenue. (6-0-1, Moriarty absent)

9. Traffic Accident Summary for September 2009

Officer Thurman stated overall accidents are down compared to this time last year. Since the last meeting there were two fatalities. The Click It & Ticket campaign has been very successful. The division is fully staffed, with no one injured. Chair Liken asked about parking enforcement in the downtown area. Officer Thurman gave a brief summary. Commissioner Gove asked about the "No Turn on Red" signs at Fourth/C.

Officer Thurman stated the signs went up on August 14th and the officers have been stationed at that intersection for enforcement. It has been very successful. The signs were installed due to public requests for assistance for pedestrians. Commissioner Navarro questioned Officer Thurman on DUI activity. Officer Thurman gave a brief summary.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Caudillo asked if there has been any more discussion about broadening the scope of the Safety Commission. Principal Civil Engineer Rivera stated not yet, but as we get closer to budget time, we may get more information.

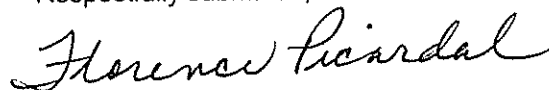
Chair Liken cancelled the January 6, 2010 meeting. (At the June 11, 2009 meeting, there was consensus that meetings would be held on a bi-monthly basis as a cost savings measure. The Municipal Code has not been changed and meetings would still be posted as monthly meetings with cancellations as needed.)

**11. Staff Comments**

Mr. Rivera stated three SANDAG workshop meetings have been scheduled to discuss the South Bay Rapid Transit project. Area residents were notified.

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:49 P.M.** to the next scheduled meeting of February 3, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Florence Picardal".

Florence Picardal, Recording Secretary